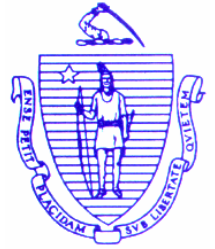




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Marine Fisheries Advisory

SAFETY ZONE ESTABLISHED AROUND WHITE SHARK

Despite the inclement weather today, scientists with the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (*Marine Fisheries*) continue to monitor the activities of the 14-foot white shark that remains in a small embayment off the coast of Woods Hole, Massachusetts. The crew was hoping the shark would depart the area during the higher tides experienced today related to the full moon and strong winds.

With the ultimate goal of encouraging the shark to exit the shallow embayment, researchers took two specific actions today. First, at slack tide, they attempted to create a sediment cloud that would result in repelling the shark from the area and exit the embayment. This method was attempted after repeated observations over the past week where the shark avoided sediment clouds that were occasionally stirred up by the vessel propeller. The crew placed ground limestone in the water to create a cloud-effect, but this technique did not move the shark toward the outlet of the channel and scientists believe that today's turbid conditions, created by the strong winds and heavy rains, were not conducive to getting the shark to respond to the shading.

The second technique used to affect the animal was a concerted "chumming" effort. During the incoming tide the crew remained near the outlet and used ground up bait in attempt to create a "chum slick" and lure the animal to the source of the bait resulting in the shark exiting the channel. However, the animal continues to show no interest.

The *Marine Fisheries* team has been continuously consulting with international experts on shark biology and behavior, and is devising new strategies that could be deployed in the days ahead. These strategies include methods of attraction as well as repelling the shark all with the goal of getting the fish out on its own accord.

With the weekend approaching, Division of Marine Fisheries Director, Paul Diodati, has decided to exercise his authority to restrict public access of the waterway by creating a "Control Zone" of those waters and lands surrounding the shark. Diodati is working in cooperation with the Coast Guard and has identified the area by signs as temporarily closed to the public. This Control Zone has been established around Monohansett Island, adjacent to Naushon Island, Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts and prohibits any vessel or person from entering waters within a 1,000 yard radius of the southernmost point of Monohansett Island. This control zone is needed to safeguard mariners, swimmers, divers, and other users of these waters from dangers associated with a shark isolated within the waters surrounding Monohansett Island, for scientific observation, investigation and protection of the fish, and to allow Marine Fisheries personnel to monitor and work with the shark without distraction or interference.

The Captain of the Port, Providence has established a temporary safety zone around Monohansett Island, adjacent to Naushon Island, Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts that prohibits any vessel or person from entering waters within a 1,000 yard radius of the southernmost point of Monohansett Island (see map below). This safety zone is needed to safeguard mariners, swimmers, divers, and other users of these waters from dangers associated with a shark isolated within the waters surrounding Monohansett Island. Entry into this zone by any vessel or person is prohibited unless specifically authorized by the Captain of the Port, Providence, Rhode Island or the on-scene patrol commander on channel 16 VHF.

